Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 between the title and line 1, insert the following new paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/836,570, filed April 17, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,692,957, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/787,788, filed January 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,245,564.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The plasmid designated pTα1-RSGFP (Fig. 1) has been deposited pursuant to, and in satisfaction of, the requirements of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852 under ATCC Accession No. [[_____]] 98298 on [[_____]] January 21, 1997. This plasmid uses the red shifted GFP (RS-GFP) of Clontech Laboratories, Inc. (Palo Alto, California), and the Tα1 promoter sequence provided by Dr. F. Miller (Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Montreal, Canada). In accordance with the subject invention, the Tα1 promoter can be replaced with another specific promoter, and the RS-GFP gene can be replaced with another form of GFP, by using standard restriction enzymes (see Fig. 1) and ligation procedures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 36 with the following amended paragraph:

The plasmid designated pTα1-GFPh (Fig. 7) has been deposited pursuant to, and in satisfaction of, the requirements of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852 under ATCC Accession No. [[_____]] 98299 on [[_____]] January 21, 1997. This plasmid uses the humanized GFP (GFPh) of Zolotukhin and Muzyczka (Levy et al. 1996b), and the Tα1 promoter sequence provided by Dr. F. Miller (Montreal). In accordance with the subject invention, the Tα1 promoter can be replaced with another

specific promoter, and the GFPh gene can be replaced with another form of GFP, by using standard restriction enzymes (see Fig. 7) and ligation procedures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Mutated forms of GFP that emit more strongly than the native protein, as well as forms of GFP amenable to stable translation in higher vertebrates, are now available and can be used for the same purpose. The plasmid designated pTα1-GFPh (ATCC Accession No. [[_____]] 98299) includes a humanized form of GFP. Indeed, any nucleic acid molecule encoding a fluorescent form of GFP can be used in accordance with the subject invention.